

**Caribbean Regional Association for an Integrated
Coastal Ocean Observing System
Activity Report
Beginning on January 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006**

Grant: CaRA

Grant Number: NA05NOS4731126

Date	Activity
January 2006	<p>Newsletter vol. 1 num. 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First issue of CaRA's newsletter was circulated to all stakeholders (See appendix I) <p>CaRA White Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An open letter to the community announcing CaRA was drafted and circulated. (See appendix II)
February 2006	<p>Meeting with Secretary of Department of Natural Resources and the Environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting with Mr. Javier Vélez-Arocho, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (DNRE) and Mr. Ernesto Diaz, administrator DNER was held. The PI, Julio Morell and the Co-PI Jorge Corredor attended this meeting. While workshops to present the project to State and Federal Agencies are still in agenda, DNR officers have already discussed the issue with State agencies and are developing plans for holding these meetings (see below for Federal agencies). <p>Steering Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Steering Committee meeting was held at the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas. Discussion topics included the governance structure of CaRA, composition of the steering committee, core coordination and advisory groups, creation of CaRA's web page, data streams, certification criteria, needs assessment, buoy locations and potential pilot projects (See appendix III).
March 2006	<p>CaRA Publicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting with a TV producer, María Falcon from "GEOAMBIENTE" of Puerto Rico was held to negotiate a TV spot highlighting the benefits of CarICOOS. A preliminary design of the spot including elements to be addressed and focus was agreed. <p>CaRA Web Page</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Efrain Morales was engaged to design the CaRA web page.

April 2006	<p>Science Meeting for the Integrated Coral Observing System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CaRA personnel attended a meeting held in La Parguera, Puerto Rico to discuss long-term observing and research initiatives in connection with the La Parguera ICON/CREWS mooring installed by NOAA. Corredor and Morell discussed the CaRA –CaRICOOS concept with a powerpoint presentation. Discussions were held with Jim Hendee of NOAA regarding mutual collaboration, possibly with the addition of a UPR ADCP current meter to the CREWS installation.
May 2006	<p>Needs Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A conference call with Chris Ellis of NOAA was held assess CaRA needs. <p>CaRA is now online</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The beta version of CaRA's web page is now available online at http://cara.uprm.edu <p>Meeting with National Weather Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting with the director of the NWS, Mr Israel Matos, was held to discuss possible venues for presentation of the CaRA concept to representatives of Federal agencies in PR. It was agreed that Matos would coordinate a presentation. <p>Ocean Views Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corredor and Watlington submitted an update on "Progress in Establishing the Caribbean Regional Association and the Caribbean Integrated Coastal Ocean Observing System" for the OCEAN.US Ocean Views Newsletter. This article appeared in issue No. 25.
June 2006	<p>CaRA & Seagrant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A contract with the UPR Sea Grant Program was signed. Seagrant will work with the tourism sector, interviewing stakeholders, finding groups of interest and facilitating data to CaRA. <p>Department of Natural Resource Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Ernesto Diaz, Administrator of DNR, Erasto Nieves, DNR Reserves Division and Jorge Tous DNR visited CaRA to discuss immediate DNR data needs and a meeting with the focal group of environmental managers from government agencies. The meeting will be held in late July. <p>Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A forum for the Academic Sector was held at the Ponce Yacht and Fishing Club in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Plans for the RA were presented to this sector.

	<p>The existing necessity of coastal oceanic _observation system in our region was emphasized. Related subjects were also presented at the meeting (Report is now being drafted).</p>
July, 2006	<p>Meeting with UPR Sea Grant Program Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UPR Sea Grant Program Director Ruperto Chaparro, Manuel Valdés-Pizzini, Director “Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios del Litoral” (CIEL), Prudencio Martinez and Carlos Carrero (CIEL) visited CaRA to discuss approaches for needs assessment and outreach to the marine tourism industry in Puerto Rico to be implemented through a formal agreement between CaRA, UPR Sea Grant and CIEL. This agreement has been signed by all parties and has been formally approved by the UPRM Chancellor. <p>Legal Counsel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal counsel for CaRA has been retained. UPRM has signed a formal agreement with the office of Torres & García PSC attorneys specializing in environmental law, to assist us in drafting bylaws and establishing the legal structure of the Association. <p>CaRA Offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An addition to the UPR – Department of Marine Sciences Chemical Oceanography Laboratory has been built to house the CaRA office on an interim basis while permanent facilities are assigned. CaRA will be moving from the laboratory to the new facility in July. <p>In Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A visit to the research laboratory of the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) on board the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line ship <i>Explorer of the Sea</i> is planned for July 19, 2006. A proposal for hosting a planning meeting during this visit was drafted by Elizabeth Williams of RSMAS focused on producing a phased implementation plan and timeline for the fixed and mobile platforms-based portion of a Caribbean ocean observing system. A meeting with representatives of government agencies will be held on July 20, 2006.